
CURRENT AFFAIRS
SEPTEMBER 2023

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IMPORTANT NEWS RELATED TO G-20

About G-20

G20 was established in 1999 as a response to various global economic crises and the G20 member nations collectively account for approximately 85% of the world's GDP, more than 75% of global trade, and roughly two-thirds of the global population.

The G20 group is made up of Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the European Union (EU). In 2023, the African Union (AU) was also added to the group.

G20 Summit held in Delhi from September 9-September 10, 2023

- The 2023 G20 summit event was held at Bharat Mandapam International Exhibition-Convention Centre, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi from September 9-10, 2023.
- It was held under the theme 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' which means 'One Earth, One Family, One Future.' India hosted the G20 Summit for the first time after it received the Presidency from Indonesia in 2022
- Some of the important world leaders who participated in the 2023 summit were – US President Joe Biden, UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, Canada PM Justin Trudeau, French President Emmanuel Macron, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, UAE President HH Shaikh Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Prime Minister of Italy Giorgia Meloni, Ursula von der Leyen, President of European Commission, Pravin Kumar Jugnauth, Prime Minister of Mauritius; European Council President Charles Michel, China's Premier Li Qiang, Turkey President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russia's President Vladimir Putin didn't attend the event.
- Some of the other international diplomats who participated in the event were Mathias Cormann, Secretary General of OECD, Ajay Banga, President of the World Bank, Kristalina Georgieva, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and Tedros Adhanom, Director General of World Health Organisation (WHO).

- The G20 leaders unanimously arrived at the consensus and adopted the 'New Delhi Declaration'. Also, the African Union (AU) was included in the G20 group.
- PM Modi handed over the G20 presidency to Brazil's Lula Da Silva, marking the end of the G20 Summit in Delhi.

World's tallest Nataraja statue installed at G20 summit venue

- The world's tallest Nataraja statue was installed at Bharat Mandapam, the venue of the G20 summit in Delhi.
- The 28-foot-tall statue weighing 20 tonnes was made in a record time of seven months by sculptor Radhakrishnan Sthapathy and his team at Swamimalai in Thanjavur District of Tamil Nadu.
- The statue was built in Ashtadhatu (eight metals) using the traditional casting method.

Indian government launched G20 Indian mobile app for visitors

- Ahead of the G20 Summit in Delhi, the Indian government released a G20 Indian mobile app for all visitors including ministers.
- The app was named 'G20 India app' and was created by the Ministry of External Affairs. It offered complete information about the summit in ten languages including Hindi, German, Portuguese and Japanese.
- The app offered a virtual tour of the venue that was helpful for delegates, officials, media personnel and more. It was made available for download on Google Play Store and Apple App Store. It has a dedicated section for press releases, documents, speeches, delegate experiences, photos, videos and much more.
- There is a special Yoga Break feature that will help users practice yoga whenever they need a break.
- There was also a Digital India Experience Zone at the venue. Users can check the app to see what is available in the zone and if they are interested enough to pay a visit. This zone also has 'Ask GITA' kiosk that answers questions about life in the voice of Krishna based on the Shrimad Bhagawad Gita.
- The app also comes with categories like Language Translation, Citizen's Corner, Crafts Bazaar, Explore India, Calendar and so on.

Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA) launched

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi along with the leaders of Singapore, Bangladesh, Italy, USA, Brazil, Argentina, Mauritius and UAE, launched the Global Biofuel Alliance on September 9, 2023, on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in New Delhi.
- GBA is an India-led Initiative to develop an alliance of governments, international organisations and industry to facilitate the adoption of biofuels. The initiative aims to position biofuels as a key to energy transition and contribute to jobs and economic growth.
- GBA will establish international standards and regulations.
- GBA consists of 19 countries and 12 international organisations. The key G20 member countries supporting the alliance include Argentina, Brazil, Canada, India, Italy, South Africa, and the US. Four G20 Invitee countries supporting GBA are Bangladesh, Singapore, Mauritius, and the UAE.
- Additionally, eight non-G20 countries, including Iceland, Kenya, Guyana, Paraguay, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Uganda, and Finland, are part of the alliance. International organisations such as the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, World Economic Forum, and others are also members.

'Bharat: The Mother of Democracy' portal launched at G20 exhibition

- On the eve of the G20 leadership summit, the union culture ministry launched a portal for the mega exhibition—'Bharat: The Mother of Democracy'—to be held at Bharat Mandapam for global leaders attending the conference.
- The content on the history of democracy in India

showcasing 7,000 years of democratic ethos starting from the Sindhu-Saraswati civilisation to 2019 is available in 16 languages including German, French, Spanish, Arabic, Portuguese, Italian, Turkish, and Russian besides English and Hindi.

- The portal is divided into five sections and 22 sub-sections starting from Sindhu-Saraswati Civilisation (6000-2000 BCE), Mahajanapada and Gantantra (7-8 BCE), Vijaynagar Empire (14-16 century), and Mughal emperor Akbar reign (1556-1605) to Constitution of India (1947) and Elections in Modern India (1952 onwards). Each section has a brief with images.
- The visitors can also download a brochure in the language of their choice. The catalogue also has the message of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The website-- www.motherofdemocracyg20.com-- is curated by the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), which is a centre for research, academic pursuit and dissemination in the field of the arts under the ministry.

African Union becomes Permanent Member of G20 Under India's Presidency

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared that the African Union (AU) had been granted permanent membership in the Group of 20 largest economies (G20) worldwide.
- This announcement marked the AU's accession as a new member of G-20. Shortly after the announcement, Union of Comoros President and AU chairperson Azali Assoumani took the seat as a full member of the G20.
- The African Union (AU) is a significant organisation consisting of 55 member states, collectively representing the nations across the African continent.

Books and Authors related to G20

Book	Name of the writer
G20@2023: The Roadmap to Indian Presidency	V. Srinivas
eBook-People's G20	Apurva Chandra
India & the G20: Legacy & Prospects for Multilateralism amidst a Polycrisis	Patrick Bond and Sonal Raghuvanshi
20 Years of G20: From Global Cooperation to Building Consensus	Edited by Rajat Kathuria and Prateek Kukreja
India in the G20: Rule-taker to Rule-maker	Edited By Manjeet Kripalani

NATIONAL NEWS

ISRO launches Aaditya L-1 mission to study the Sun

- On September 2, 2023, ISRO launched Aditya-L1 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.
- Aditya-L1 is the first space-based observatory-class Indian solar mission to study the Sun. It will study the outermost layers of the Sun. It aims to shed light on the dynamics of several solar phenomena by imaging and measuring particles in the sun's upper atmosphere.
- It had seven distinct payloads developed, all indigenously – five by ISRO and two by Indian academic institutes in collaboration with ISRO.
- The seven payloads will observe the photosphere, chromosphere and the outermost layers of the Sun, called the corona, using electromagnetic, particle and magnetic field detectors. Four payloads will directly view the Sun and the remaining three payloads will carry out in-situ studies of particles and fields, "providing important scientific studies of the propagatory effect of solar dynamics in the interplanetary medium."
- Initially, the spacecraft will be placed in a low earth orbit. The orbit is gradually made more elliptical, after which the spacecraft will be launched towards its destination: L1 refers to Lagrange point 1 (L1) of the Sun-Earth system, which is about 1.5 million km from the Earth.
- Lagrange points are the positions in space where the gravitational pull of the two large bodies equals the necessary centripetal force required for a small object to move with them – meaning a small object placed there will stay there.
- The total travel time from launch to L1 would take about four months.
- The project director of Aaditya L-1 is Nigar Shaji.

Key Points

Headquarters	– Mandaluyong, Philippines
Formation	– 19 th December 1966
President	– Masatsugu Asakawa

Kaimur district will have Bihar's second tiger reserve

- The Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary will have Bihar's second tiger reserve. Currently, the Valmiki Tiger

Reserve (VTR) in West Champaran district is the first and only tiger reserve of the state.

- According to a report from the National Tiger Reserve Conservation Authority (NTCA), the tiger population in the Valmiki Reserve has increased from 31 in 2018 to 54. There is a need for a second tiger reserve in the state.
- At 34%, Kaimur also has the highest green cover in Bihar and the Kaimur forests are the biggest in the State in terms of area. Its geography plays a vital role in the decision to establish a tiger reserve. Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary is situated in Kaimur District and Rohtas District of Bihar. It is the largest sanctuary in the state.

Key Points

Bihar's Capital	– Patna
Bihar's Chief Minister	– Nitish Kumar

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) recognises the Mithun as a 'food animal'

- FSSAI has recognised the Mithun as a 'food animal'. This recognition has opened up opportunities for farmers and tribal communities to benefit economically from the sale and processing of Mithun meat. Its low-fat content makes it a potential premium meat product, catering to health-conscious consumers.
- Mithun is often referred to as the 'Cattle of the Hills' and its scientific name is *Bos frontalis*. It is native to the lush and hilly regions of Northeast India, particularly the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, and Mizoram. It is considered the state animal of Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland. Its role in traditional practices and ceremonies reflects its importance in the cultural heritage of the region.

Key Points

FSSAI HQ	– New Delhi
FSSAI's Chairperson	– Sudhansh Pant

The Centre forms the committee to explore the possibility of 'One-Nation, One-Election'

- The Centre has constituted a committee headed by former president Ram Nath Kovind to explore the possibility of 'One-Nation, One-Election'.

- 'One Nation, One Election' refers to holding the Lok Sabha and state assembly polls simultaneously across the country, like it was in the first few rounds of elections in India.
- Conducting polls simultaneously was the norm in India until 1967 when four elections were held this way. The practice stopped after some state assemblies were dissolved prematurely in 1968-69. The Lok Sabha was also, for the first time, dissolved a year ahead of schedule in 1970 and mid-term elections were held in 1971.
- Assembly polls are due in five states- Mizoram, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Telangana and Rajasthan- in November-December and they are scheduled to be followed by the Lok Sabha elections in May-June next year.

India to open embassy in Timor-Leste leading to strengthened ASEAN ties

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a decision to open an Indian embassy in Dilli, Timor-Leste.
- This decision was announced by PM Modi while co-chairing the annual ASEAN-India summit. Timor Leste joined the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in 2022 as an Observer, before becoming its full member.
- ASEAN is considered one of the most influential groupings in the region, and India and several other countries including the US, China, Japan and Australia are its dialogue partners.

Key Points

Timor-Leste/ East Timor Capital President	– Dili – José Manuel Ramos-Horta
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Unified Portal for Agricultural (UPAg) Statistics (www.upag.gov.in) launched

- UPAg was officially launched by Professor Ramesh Chand, Member of NITI. The government expects to use this portal to address the complex governance challenges faced by the Indian agricultural sector.
- It has been developed by the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare in a bid to address data-related governance challenges in agriculture such as lack of standardised and verified data, making it difficult for policymakers, researchers, and stakeholders to make informed decisions.

- The UPAg Portal is a crucial component of the Digital Public Infrastructure for Agriculture, aimed at harnessing the diversity of the agriculture sector and using data as a catalyst for growth.

Key Points

Union Minister of Agriculture	– Narendra Singh Tomar
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Ministry of Women and Child Development celebrated the sixth Rashtriya Poshan Maah throughout September 2023

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development celebrated the sixth Rashtriya Poshan Maah throughout September 2023 with an objective to comprehensively tackle malnutrition through a life-cycle approach, the cornerstone of Mission Poshan 2.0.
- The focal point of Poshan Maah 2023 is to cultivate widespread awareness concerning critical human life stages: pregnancy, infancy, childhood, and adolescence.
- The aim is to foster nutritional understanding across India through a theme centered on "Suposhit Bharat, Sakshar Bharat, Sashakt Bharat" (Nutrition-rich India, Educated India, Empowered India).
- POSHAN stands for Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nutrition. POSHAN Abhiyaan has been instrumental in advancing nutritional outcomes for pregnant women, lactating mothers, adolescent girls, and children under six years of age in a comprehensive manner.

Key Points

Union Minister of Women and Child Development	– Smriti Irani
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Vijayawada Railway Station gets the coveted Platinum rating of IGBC

- In an incredible achievement, Vijayawada Railway Station was certified with a Platinum rating by IGBC (Indian Green Building Council).
- In the recertification process this year, Vijayawada railway station outperformed and immensely improved its amenities in almost all aspects compared to the 2019 Gold Standard Rating and clinched the Platinum standard IGBC Rating.
- Green Rating certification was mandated by the National Green Tribunal in the year 2017 and as a

first initiative, the station has processed for green certification and achieved the Gold rating at the end of the year 2019 with the then-optimised facilities and provisions.

- The Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) with the support of the Environment Directorate of Indian Railways has developed the Green Railway Stations rating system to facilitate the adoption of green concepts, thereby reducing the adverse environmental impacts and enhancing the overall commuter experience.

The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) partners with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India for data-driven innovations in agriculture

- UNDP India and NABARD signed an MoU to co-create data-driven innovations in agriculture and food systems to support smallholder farmers.
- Under the MoU, the organisations will work to improve the lives and livelihoods of smallholder farmers by sharing open-source data for product development, transfer of technology and supporting the framing of agrarian policies.
- The partnership aims at enhancing and disseminating collaborative digital public goods like DiCRA (Data in Climate Resilient Agriculture). DiCRA provides open access to key geospatial datasets pertinent to climate-resilient agriculture.
- DiCRA, which is curated by UNDP and partner organisations to inform the public about investments in agriculture, already provides intelligence on climate resilience for 50 million hectares of farmland across the country.
- NABARD will host and maintain the DiCRA platform and use its key geospatial datasets for policy-making, research and development activities, with UNDP's technical support.

Key Points

NABARD'S HQ	– Mumbai, India
NABARD's Chairman	– Shaji KV

Punjab CM Bhagwant Singh Mann lays the foundation stone of the Saragarhi memorial in Ferozpur

- Punjab's Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann laid the foundation stone of the Saragarhi War Memorial in Ferozpur during a state-level function organised to

mark the 126th anniversary of the historic battle of Saragarhi that took place on September 12, 1897, near Samana (now in Pakistan).

- About 126 years ago, 21 brave soldiers of the 36th Sikh Regiment of the British-Indian Army gave their martyrdom while fighting against about ten thousand Afghani tribesmen. The 36th Sikh Regiment is now known as the Fourth Sikh Regiment of the Indian Army.
- These 21 Sikhs who died in this war were mostly from the Majha region of Punjab, so memorials of these martyrs were built in Amritsar and Ferozpur districts. These martyrs were honored with the highest Indian military bravery award, the Indian Order of Merit at that time, equal to the Paramvir Chakra presently.

Apple's iPhone 15 Pro and iPhone 15 Pro Max handsets use ISRO's navigation technology- NavIC (Navigation with Indian Constellation)

- Apple's iPhone 15 Pro and iPhone 15 Pro Max handsets will support India's indigenous alternative to GPS, NavIC.
- It is the first time that Apple has introduced NavIC support to any of its iPhone models. However, the standard iPhone 15 and iPhone 15 Plus versions do not support NavIC.
- NavIC will be available in the handsets along with other GPS systems of Galileo and GLONASS in iPhone 15.
- It is an independent, stand-alone navigation satellite system that was originally approved in 2006 and was expected to be completed by late 2011. However, NavIC only became operational in 2018. This regional navigation satellite system was basically established to meet the positioning, navigation and timing requirements of India. Before this NavIC was also known as IRNSS (Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System).

Old Indian Parliament building to be known as 'Samvidhan Sadan': PM Modi

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi suggested that the old building, where meetings of the Constituent Assembly were held to frame the Constitution, should be known as 'Samvidhan Sadan' (Constitution House).
- The old Parliament Building was designed by British architects Sir Edwin Lutyens and Herbert Baker and was completed in 1927.

- The new parliament building was inaugurated by PM Modi on May 28, 2023, on Kartavya Path, New Delhi.
- The Lok Sabha Chamber of the new building has a capacity of 888 members while the Rajya Sabha Chamber holds a capacity of 300 people. For a joint sitting of both houses, 1,280 MPs can be accommodated in the Lok Sabha chamber.
- Each Member of Parliament will have a 40 sq.m office space in the redeveloped Shram Shakti Bhawan, which will be completed by 2024. The national archives will also move from the old building to the new one. The four-storey mammoth edifice has a built-up area of 64,500 square metres with three main gates -- Gyan Dwar, Shakti Dwar and Karma Dwar. Entrances are separate entrances for VIPs, MPs and visitors.
- Hoysaleswara temple in Halebid is a twin-shrined temple that is perhaps the largest Shiva temple built by the Hoysalas. The sculptures depict various aspects of Shiva, as well as scenes from the Ramayana, the Mahabharata, and the Bhagavata Purana.
- The other heritage sites in Karnataka which got into the UNESCO list are Hampi (1986) and Pattadakal(1987).
- Recently, Santiniketan, which is a town located in the Birbhum district of West Bengal, was also included in UNESCO's World Heritage List.

Key Points

UNESCO's Headquarters	– Paris, France
Director General	– Audrey Azoulay

PM Modi lays the foundation stone of the international cricket stadium in Varanasi

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of an international cricket stadium in Varanasi. This will be Uttar Pradesh's third international cricket stadium after Kanpur and Lucknow.
- Varanasi's international cricket stadium will be built on ₹121 crore land. An approximate ₹330 crore will be spent on the construction of the cricket stadium. The stadium will accommodate nearly 30,000 people at a time. The roof covers will be crescent-shaped, floodlights shaped like a trident, patterns resembling bel leaves, and one of the structures shaped like a 'damru'. The design of the international cricket stadium in Varanasi will depict the essence of Kashi.

Hoysala temples are the 42nd World Heritage site in India

- The Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysala, the famed Hoysala temples of Belur, Halebid and Somanathapur in Karnataka have been added to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage list. This inclusion marks the 42nd UNESCO World Heritage Site in India.
- Chennakeshava Temple in Belur was built by Hoysala King Vishnuvardhana to commemorate his victory over the Cholas in 1116 AD.
- Beluru (earlier known as Velapuri, Velur and Belapur in olden times) is situated on the banks of the Yagachi River and was one of the capitals of the Hoysala Empire. It is a star-shaped temple, dedicated to Lord Vishnu, and is the main temple in the temple complex at Belur.

CUSAT researchers name new marine tardigrade species after late President Dr. Abdul Kalam

- In a tribute to 'Missile Man' Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, researchers from the Marine Biology department of Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT) named a new species of marine tardigrade that they discovered after the former President.
- The new species of tardigrades named 'Batillipes kalami' was found by researchers in the intertidal beach sediments of Mandapam coast, close to Kalam's birthplace in Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu.
- The researchers' move aims to honour Dr Kalam's legacy, his unwavering commitment to science and technology, and his inspirational role in fostering scientific curiosity among young Indians.
- Tardigrades, often referred to as water bears, are eight-legged micro-animals found in the water. They are known for extraordinary resilience and survival abilities in extreme environmental conditions. They are considered to be one of the toughest organisms on earth, having survived all five mass extinctions, and are also the first known animals to survive in space.
- The newly-discovered species is approximately 0.17mm long and 0.05mm wide, characterised by four pairs of legs. It belongs to the phylum Tardigrada, which comprises more than 1,300 described species. Of them, just 17% are marine species.

India gets its 54th Tiger Reserve 'Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve' in Madhya Pradesh

- The Madhya Pradesh Government has unveiled the Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve, which is the seventh tiger reserve in the state and the 54th in India.

MP retained the 'tiger state' status in the 2022 census with the number of big cats in the state rising to 785 from 526 in 2018.

- Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve is spread across Sagar, Damoh and Narsinghpur districts of Madhya Pradesh with an area of 2,339 square kilometres. It

will encompass areas within the Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary and Durgavati Wildlife Sanctuary.

- A green corridor linking Panna Tiger Reserve (PTR) with Durgavati will be developed for the natural movement of the tiger to the new reserve.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

US State Georgia officially declares October as 'Hindu Heritage Month'

- In an official proclamation, Georgia's Governor Brian Kemp has declared October as 'Hindu Heritage' month. This action will recognise and appreciate the valuable contributions made by the vibrant Hindu-American community residing in the state.
- Also, this declaration highlights the intention to celebrate Hindu heritage by emphasising its rich culture and the diverse spiritual traditions that originated from India.

Storm Daniel devastates Libya killing over 5,300 people

- At least 5,300 people were killed and over 10,000 were missing after a massive storm named Daniel caused terrible damage. The flood ripped through the city of Derna following a heavy storm and rain.
- Several dams broke, leading to severe flooding in neighborhoods. Any houses were washed away, and people had to search for their missing family members.

Key Points

Libya's Capital	– Tripoli
Chairman of the Presidential Council	– Mohamed al-Menfi

India-Canada relations strained over allegations of killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar

- Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau accused Indian agents of killing Hardeep Singh Nijjar on Canadian soil. Nijjar was shot dead outside a gurudwara in British Columbia in June 2023. He was designated a terrorist in 2020 by the Government of India.
- According to reports, this information was provided to Canada by an undisclosed ally within the Five Eyes intelligence alliance. The 'Five Eyes' is a multilateral intelligence-sharing network shared by over 20 different agencies of five English-speaking countries —

Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States. It is both surveillance-based and signals intelligence (SIGINT). These countries are parties to the multilateral UK-USA Agreement, a treaty for joint cooperation in signals intelligence.

- India's Ministry of External Affairs rejected Trudeau's allegations, calling them "absurd" and accusing Canada of sheltering "terrorists and extremists" who "continue to threaten India's sovereignty and territorial integrity."
- India temporarily suspended the process of Visa applications from Canada because of the security threats faced by the Indian High Commission and consulates in Canada.

Israel unveils cutting edge – Fifth generation Main Battle Tank- Merkava Mark 5

- Israel has delivered the first models of "fifth generation Merkava battle tanks" to the 52nd Armored Battalion belonging to the 401st Brigade.
- The Barak tank is the result of a collaborative effort between the Defense Ministry's Armored Vehicles Directorate and the IDF's Ground Forces and Armored Corps.
- It incorporates advanced systems created by multiple Israeli defence companies, including Elbit Systems, Rafael, and the Israel Aerospace Industries' subsidiary, Elta, along with other firms.
- Building upon their extensive expertise in designing, developing, and manufacturing earlier Merkava models, such as the Mk 1, Mk 2, and Mk 3 Main Battle Tanks (MBTs), Israel subsequently unveiled the upgraded Merkava Mk 4.
- The Merkava 5, in turn, represents a further refinement of the Merkava IV, incorporating cutting-edge technologies and advancements in both protective measures and digital combat capabilities.
- The Merkava's overall design closely mirrors that of the Merkava IV, featuring a driver's position situated

on the left side of the hull, a turret located at the rear of the hull, and the engine positioned at the front. This tank is crewed by four individuals, including a driver, commander, gunner, and loader.

Key Points

Israel's Prime Minister	– Benjamin Netanyahu
President	– Isaac Herzog

Britain rejoins EU's Horizon science programme in further boost for ties

- Britain would rejoin the European Union's flagship Horizon science research programme, ending a two-year post-Brexit standoff with the EU over science funding.
- Under a Brexit trade agreement signed at the end of 2020, Britain negotiated access to a range of EU science and innovation programmes, including Horizon, the EU's largest funding programme for researchers with an annual budget of 95.5 billion euros (\$102 billion).
- The EU blocked Britain's participation because of a row over post-Brexit trade rules governing the British province of Northern Ireland, but February's resolution of that dispute opened the door to Britain rejoining Horizon Europe.
- The agreement, which excludes the EU's Euratom nuclear research scheme, signals a further improvement in bilateral relations seven months after a dispute over trade was resolved, and was welcomed by British scientists.

Key Points

Prime Minister of the UK	– Rishi Sunak
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Louisville, a US city declares September 3 as Sanatana Dharma Day

- Louisville, a city in the United States, has declared September 3 as Sanatana Dharma Day. The declaration was made by Mayor Craig Greenberg.
- The official proclamation was read during the 'Maha Kumbha Abhishekam' celebration at the Hindu Temple of Kentucky in Louisville.

- Previously, July 20 was declared as the 'Encyclopedia of Hinduism' day in Kentucky by former Louisville mayor Greg Fisher.

NASA's Perseverance rover sets record for longest Mars drive on autopilot

- NASA's Perseverance rover, along with its automatic navigation system, set a record on Mars by manoeuvring right through a particularly hazardous patch of Martian land.
- In late June, Perseverance entered the boulder field named 'Snowdrift Peak' from the east. At first, it paused to inspect two rocks, and then with AutoNav's guidance, it confidently made its way through the field. When the rover finally left Snowdrift Peak in late July it had covered a distance of 759 meters (0.8 kilometers).
- NASA's robotic explorers have remained protected on unfamiliar terrains by automatic navigators since 1997 when Sojourner, the space agency's first Mars rover, dodged dangerous rocks using a silicon-based navigator. But it had such a small memory that the rover needed to stop every 5.1 inches (13 centimetres) to reorient to its surroundings. With better software, those distances increased with every successor that visited Mars.
- Perseverance is the first rover that has two computer brains working together, allowing it to make decisions on the fly. Those programmed brains have also helped Perseverance set previous records on Mars for off-roading 699.9 meters (0.6 kilometers) in the Jezero Crater — the longest drive without human review.

Earlier this month, Perseverance kickstarted its fourth science campaign by exploring the inner regions of Jezero Crater's western rim, which seems to be rich in carbonates — a tantalizing clue that could shed more light on any ancient microbial life that might have existed on Mars. This area is also rich in broken rocks, high slopes and Martian dunes, according to data gathered from orbiting spacecraft.

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

Women's Reservation Bill 2023 or Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam passed in the Parliament

- The Lok Sabha (LS) and Rajya Sabha (RS), both passed the Women's Reservation Bill 2023 (128th Constitutional Amendment Bill) or Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam.
- The bill reserves one-third of the seats in Lok Sabha, State legislative assemblies and the Delhi assembly. This will also apply to the seats reserved for SCs (Scheduled Castes) and STs (Scheduled Tribes) in Lok Sabha and State Legislatures.
- It provides for inserting Article 330A into the constitution, which borrows from the provisions of Article 330, which provides for the reservation of seats to SCs/STs in the Lok Sabha.
- It provided that reserved seats for women may be allotted by rotation to different constituencies in states or Union Territories. In the seats reserved for SCs/STs, the Bill sought to provide one-third of the seats to be reserved for women on a rotational basis.
- The Bill introduces Article 332A, which mandates the reservation of seats for women in every state Legislative Assembly. Additionally, one-third of the seats reserved for SCs and STs must be allocated for women, and one-third of the total seats filled through direct elections to the Legislative Assemblies shall also be reserved for women.
- The reservation will be effective after the census conducted after the commencement of this Bill has been published. Based on the census, delimitation will be undertaken to reserve seats for women. The reservation will be provided for a period of 15 years. However, it shall continue till such date as determined by a law made by Parliament.

Cabinet okays ₹5000 cr Promotion of Research and Innovation in Pharma-MedTech Sector (PRIP) scheme to boost research and innovation

- The Union Cabinet has approved the National Policy on Research and Development and Innovation in the Pharma-MedTech Sector. This decision is accompanied by the approval of the Scheme for Promotion of Research and Innovation in the Pharma-MedTech Sector (PRIP), with a substantial allocation of ₹5,000 crore for a five-year period spanning from FY24 to

FY28.

- The scheme was rolled out earlier this month by the government with the belief that the Indian pharmaceutical industry has the potential to increase its current 3.4% share of the global market to 5% by the year 2030.
- The National Policy focuses on three key areas: strengthening the regulatory framework, incentivising investment in innovation, and enabling an ecosystem for innovation and research. The policy aims to accelerate drug discovery and development, foster collaboration between industry and academia, and streamline existing policies to optimise research resources.

Cabinet approves eCourts Phase III for 4 years

- The Union Cabinet has approved the eCourts Project Phase III as a Central Sector Scheme spanning four years (2023 onwards) with a financial outlay of ₹7210 crores.
- As part of the National eGovernance Plan, the e-Courts Project has been implemented since 2007 for ICT enablement of the Indian Judiciary Phase II which concluded in 2023. Phase III of the e-Courts Project in India is rooted in the philosophy of 'access and inclusion'.
- Phase-III aims to usher in a regime of maximum ease of justice by moving towards digital, online and paperless courts through digitisation of the entire court records including legacy records and by bringing in universalisation of e-filing/ e-payments through saturation of all court complexes with e-Sewa Kendras.
- The main objective of phase III is to create a unified technology platform for the judiciary, which will provide a seamless and paperless interface between the courts, the litigants and other stakeholders.
- The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of eCourts Phase III is being implemented under the joint partnership of the Department of Justice, Ministry of Law & Justice, Government of India and eCommittee, Supreme Court of India, in a decentralised manner through the respective High Courts to develop a judicial system that would promote ease of justice by making the system more accessible, affordable, reliable, predictable, and transparent for all stakeholders.

Key Points

Chief Justice of India	–	DY Chandrachud
Union Law Minister	–	Arjun Ram Meghwal

Assam Government launches Mukhyamantrir Atmanirbharshil Asom Abhiyan

- The Assam government has launched “Mukhyamantrir Atmanirbharshil Asom Abhiyan” which aims to provide financial assistance of ₹2 lakh each to two lakh deserving young individuals.
- Selected beneficiaries are required to engage in a month-long training program, during which they will receive a stipend of ₹10,000.
- This training initiative focuses on enhancing skills related to management, accounting, and entrepreneurship. Successful candidates must also meet the prerequisite of attending classes at their designated educational or skill training institutions.

Key Points

Chief Minister of Assam	–	Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma
Governor	–	Gulab Chand Kataria
Capital	–	Dispur

Assam Governor Gulab Chand Kataria unveils ‘Sarpanch Samvad’ mobile app

- Assam Governor Gulab Chand Kataria unveiled the ‘Sarpanch Samvad’ app, which is an initiative to revolutionise the way Sarpanchs, who are village headmen, communicate, collaborate, and access vital resources.
- This application is exclusively designed for Sarpanchs actively serving in Gram Panchayat Offices. Once a Sarpanch’s tenure concludes, certain features, including their profile, are automatically frozen within the mobile application. In specific cases, subject to administrative approval, former Sarpanchs who have previously served in Gram Panchayats may obtain an advisory role if they wish to contribute to the mobile application’s development.
- The app has been developed by the Quality Council of India (QCI), which is responsible for establishing and operating the third-party national accreditation system, and plays a vital role in improving quality across various sectors and advising the government and stakeholders on quality-related matters.

- At present, the application offers support for seven languages, including English, Hindi, Punjabi, Gujarati, Marathi, Kannada, and Telugu.

Goa’s CM Pramod Sawant launches Griha Adhar and Chavath-e-Bazaar scheme to empower Goan homemakers

- In a significant move aimed at bolstering the financial independence and well-being of homemakers in Goa, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant launched the Griha Aadhaar scheme and Chavath-e-Bazaar to empower housewives in Goa by providing them with financial assistance.
- The Griha Adhar initiative, orchestrated by the Directorate of Women and Child Development, represents a significant stride towards women’s empowerment. By providing financial support to homemakers, this initiative aspires to make them self-reliant and enhance their overall quality of life. The sanction orders distributed during this event are a testament to the government’s commitment to the welfare of women in Goa.
- Chavath-e-Bazaar is a Digital Leap for Goan Entrepreneurs. It was launched under the Swayampura Goa Programme, and is designed to empower Goan entrepreneurs and self-help groups. It will provide a platform for local artisans and entrepreneurs to showcase their products to a wider audience and also promote ‘Vocal for Local.’

Govt launches AI chatbot for PM-KISAN scheme

- The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare launched an AI chatbot — the first of its kind to be integrated with a major flagship scheme of the central government — for the PM-KISAN scheme.
- The AI chatbot launch marks a “significant” step towards enhancing the efficiency and reach of the PM-KISAN scheme, while providing the farmers with “prompt, clear and accurate” responses to their queries
- The chatbot is currently available in English, Hindi, Bengali, Odia and Tamil, and will soon be available in all 22 official languages of the country.
- PM- KISAN stands for Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi. It is a central sector scheme launched in February 2019 to support the financial needs of land-holding farmers in India. It offers an annual financial benefit of ₹6,000/- in three equal installments to eligible farmers’ families through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode.

Key Points

Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare – Narendra Singh Tomar

Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) 'Adopt a Heritage 2.0 programme' Indian Heritage app and e-Permission portal launched

- ASI has unveiled 'Adopt a Heritage 2.0' which invites corporate stakeholders to enhance the amenities at the monuments by utilising their CSR funds.
- The programme is a revamped version of the earlier scheme launched in 2017 and clearly defines the amenities sought for different monuments as per AMASR Act 1958. The selected stakeholders will develop, provide and maintain amenities in hygiene, accessibility, safety and knowledge categories. In doing so, they will get an opportunity to be recognised as a responsible and heritage-friendly entity.
- The term of the appointment will be for a period of five years initially, which may be further extended up to five years.

Key Points

Union Minister of Culture, Tourism and DoNER – G Kishan Reddy

Jharkhand Cabinet approves 1k pension for transgender community, inclusion in backward classes category

- The Jharkhand government has decided to add the transgender community under its universal pension

scheme- Mukhyamantri Rajya Samajik Suraksha Pension Yojana with an aim to provide social security and bring them into the mainstream of society.

- The government also decided to include them under the backward class category and provide them the benefits.
- According to the Department of Women, Child Development and Social Security (WCDSS), the transgender population was around 11,900 in Jharkhand in 2011, which currently would be nearly 14,000.

Key Points

Chief Minister – Hemant Soren
Capital – Ranchi

Cabinet approves expansion of Ujjwala Yojana

- The Union Cabinet has approved the extension of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) for the release of 75 lakh LPG connections over three years from Financial Year 2023-24 to 2025-26.
- The provisioning of 75 lakhs additional Ujjwala connections will take a total number of PMUY beneficiaries to 10.35 crore. As per the existing modalities of Ujjawala 2.0, the first refill and stove will also be provided free of cost to Ujjwala beneficiaries.
- A targeted subsidy of ₹200 per 14.2 kg LPG cylinder for upto 12 refills per year is being provided to PMUY consumers. Without continuation of PMUY, eligible poor households may not be able to get their due benefit under the scheme.

DEFENCE NEWS

Indian Defence Acquisition Council(DAC) officially approves the Indigenous Dhruvastra Missile

- In a significant development, India's Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) has given the green light to several capital acquisition proposals, including the indigenous Dhruvastra short-range air-to-surface missile. This precision-guided weapon is designed for deployment on the indigenously built DHRUV MK-IV helicopters and is poised to elevate India's combat capabilities against enemy tanks and armoured vehicles significantly.

- This approval marks a substantial enhancement in India's military capabilities. This advanced missile system, originally named Helina and developed as part of the Integrated Guided Missile Development Program (IGMDP) by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), represents a formidable addition to India's array of military assets.
- Cutting-edge Features and Versatility.

Key Points

Union Defence Minister – Rajnath Singh

IAF's Training Exercise Trishul Begins

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) has kicked off its annual mega training exercise, Trishul, which is a crucial event aimed at bolstering its operational readiness and capabilities.
- This extensive exercise is organised by the Western Air Command (WAC) and spans a vast geographical area, from Leh in Kashmir to Nal in Rajasthan.
- Trishul is designed to rigorously assess the operational preparedness of the Western Air Command. This assessment encompasses a wide range of assets and scenarios, making it an intricate and comprehensive training program.
- The exercise features the deployment of all frontline assets under the Western Air Command, showcasing the IAF's diverse airpower. This includes various fighter aircraft such as the Rafale, Mirage 2000, and Su-30MKIs, highlighting the formidable combat capabilities of the Indian Air Force.

Key Points

Chief of Air Staff – Vivek Ram Chaudhari

Indian Navy Ship Sumedha arrives in Egypt for Exercise Bright Star-23

- INS Sumedha arrived at Port Alexandria, Egypt to participate in 'Exercise BRIGHT STAR- 23'. It is a multinational Tri-Services military exercise and will see participation from 34 countries. It is the largest-ever joint military exercise in the Middle East & North Africa region.
- Ex Bright Star 23 is scheduled to be conducted in two phases. The Harbour Phase involves wide-ranging activities such as cross-deck visits, professional exchanges, sports fixtures and interactions for planning and conduct of the Sea Phase. The Sea Phase will include complex and high-intensity exercises encompassing cross-deck flying, anti-surface and anti-air exercises including live weapon firing drills.
- The exercise provides an opportunity for the Indian Navy to enhance and demonstrate interoperability and also gain from the best practices in maritime security operations from its partner nations.

Phase II of the 21st edition of Varuna conducted in the Arabian Sea

- The Phase II of the 21st edition of the Varuna (Varuna-23) bilateral exercise between Indian and French

Navy was conducted in the Arabian Sea in September 2023.

- The exercise was conducted over three days and witnessed joint operations, underway replenishment and various tactical manoeuvres.
- The first phase of 'Varuna-2023' was conducted off India's Western Seaboard from January 16 to 20, 2023.
- Indian and French Navy bilateral naval exercise was initiated in 1993. The exercise was later christened as 'Varuna' in 2001 and has since become a hallmark of robust India-France strategic bilateral relationship.

Navy, and Uber team up for private travel of naval personnel, and families across India

- The Indian Navy has joined hands with Uber to provide reliable, convenient, safe and economical mobility solutions for personal travel and commute of naval personnel and families across the country.
- Uber will extend several benefits to Indian Navy's personnel and their families, including a personalised profile on the Uber app; premier executive cab category 'providing surge price protection during peak office hours'; availability of top-rated drivers; zero cancellation fee on all its rides and a 24x7 premium business support.
- This MoU aligns with the Chief of Naval Staff's vision of 'happy personnel' under 'SHIPS FIRST' and is a maiden initiative in the armed forces. It is also in furtherance of the Government of India's 'Digital India' vision of embracing technology for transformative change.

Key Points

Navy Chief Admiral – R Hari Kumar

DAC approves proposals worth ₹45,000 crore, including procurement of 12 Su-30MKIs for IAF

- The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) approved a total of nine acquisition proposals totalling ₹45,000 crore.
- Among them, the ministry okayed the proposal for the procurement of 12 Su-30MKIs for the Indian Air Force, which would be manufactured in India by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).
- The Indian Air Force will also be getting avionics upgradation of Dornier aircraft to improve the accuracy and reliability for operations and the Dhruvastra Short Range Air-to-Surface Missile as a potent indigenous

precision-guided weapon for indigenously built ALH Mk-IV choppers.

- DAC also approved proposals to procure Light Armoured Multipurpose Vehicles (LAMV) and Integrated Surveillance and Targeting System (ISAT-S), and High Mobility Vehicle (HMV) Gun Towing Vehicles for swift obilization and deployment of Artillery Guns and Radars.
- For the Indian Navy, the DAC approved the procurement of Next Generation Survey Vessels that will greatly enhance its capabilities in performing Hydrographic Operations.

Key Points

Union Defence Minister – Rajnath Singh

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) develops P7 Heavy Drop System for para-dropping military stores, ammunition, guns from IL-76 aircraft

- DRDO has developed the P7 Heavy Drop System which is capable of para-dropping military stores up to 7-ton weight class from IL 76 aircraft.
- This system is fully indigenous and being manufactured by L&T which makes the platform system, and parachutes are being manufactured by Ordnance Factory.
- This system has been made under the Make in India programme and will provide a significant boost to India's defence capabilities. The system has been manufactured with 100% indigenous Ferrous/Non-Ferrous Materials.
- With a maximum load-bearing capacity of 8,500 kg and a permitted payload limit of 7,000 kg, the system operates at drop speeds ranging from 260 to 400 kph, showcasing its adaptability to different scenarios.

Key Points

DRDO's Headquarters – New Delhi
DRDO's Chairman – Sameer V. Kamat

India's First C-295 Aircraft Formally Introduced Into IAF

- India's first C-295 transport aircraft was formally inducted into the Indian Air Force on September 25, in the presence of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.
- The new generation C-295, manufactured by Airbus, is a highly versatile tactical transport aircraft designed to meet the evolving needs of modern military operations. The induction marks an important moment in India's defence history as the air force now possesses aircraft capable of taking off and landing from unprepared landing grounds which will bolster the medium-lift tactical capability of the IAF and make India self-reliant.
- Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari received the first of the 56 C295 transport aircraft on September 13, two years after India sealed a ₹21,935-crore deal with Airbus Defence and Space for their procurement.
- Under the comprehensive agreement with Airbus, the first 16 C-295 aircraft will be delivered in 'fly-away' condition from Airbus's final assembly line in Seville by 2025. Subsequently, the remaining 40 aircraft will be manufactured and assembled in India under the strategic partnership between Airbus and Tata Advanced Systems (TASL).

Key Points

IAF Chief – VR Chaudhari
Union Defence Minister – Rajnath Singh

Maruti Suzuki joins hands with Indian Navy for Northeast outreach

- Maruti Suzuki announced a partnership with the Indian Navy to raise awareness about career opportunities among the youth in the Northeast through "Khamree Mo Sikkim" outreach programme.
- This initiative highlights the collective commitment from all stakeholders towards the development and empowerment of the Northeastern region.
- 45 navy officials have embarked on a 6,500 km journey driving 5 Maruti Suzuki SUVs across India.

BANKING, FINANCE AND ECONOMY NEWS

India-Middle East-Europe Mega Economic Corridor announced

- PM Narendra Modi announced the launch of the India-Middle East-Europe mega economic corridor on the sidelines of the G20 summit. The project includes India, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, the European Union, France, Italy, Germany and the US. It aims to enable greater trade among the involved countries, including energy products. The corridor will include a rail link as well as an electricity cable, a hydrogen pipeline and a high-speed data cable.
- The project is also called 'a green and digital bridge across continents and civilizations.'
- It would help deal with the lack of infrastructure needed for growth in lower- and middle-income nations. It could help 'turn the temperature down' on 'turbulence and insecurity.'
- The rail and shipping corridor is part of the Partnership for Global Infrastructure Investment (PGII) — a collaborative effort by G7 nations to fund infrastructure projects in developing nations. PGII is considered to be the bloc's counter to China's Belt and Road Initiative.

Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurates 90 BRO Infrastructure Projects worth over ₹2,900 Crores

- Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has dedicated to the nation 90 infrastructure projects of Border Roads Organisation (BRO), worth over ₹2,900 crores, spread across 11 States/Union Territories.
- These include Nechiphu Tunnel in Arunachal Pradesh; two airfields in West Bengal; two helipads; 22 roads and 63 bridges. Of these 90 projects, 36 are in Arunachal Pradesh; 26 in Ladakh; 11 in Jammu & Kashmir; 5 in Mizoram; three in Himachal Pradesh; 2 each in Sikkim, Uttarakhand & West Bengal and 1 each in Nagaland, Rajasthan and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
- The BRO has completed the construction of these strategically important projects in record time; most of them in a single working season using state-of-the-art technology.
- The event was organised at Devak Bridge on Bishnah-Kaulpur-Phulpur Road in Jammu and Kashmir. It is a state-of-the-art 422.9 meter-long bridge which will enhance the operational preparedness of the Armed Forces and boost socio-economic development of the region.

- An important infrastructure project inaugurated by the Raksha Mantri was the 500-metre-long Nechiphu Tunnel on Balipara-Charduar-Tawang Road in Arunachal Pradesh. This tunnel, along with the under-construction Sela Tunnel, will provide all-weather connectivity to the strategic Tawang Region.
- The revamped Bagdogra and Barrackpore Airfields in West Bengal were also dedicated to the nation. These airfields, reconstructed at a cost of over ₹500 crores, will not only bolster the preparedness of IAF, but also facilitate commercial flight operations in the region.
- In addition, Shri Rajnath Singh virtually laid the foundation stone of Nyoma Airfield in Eastern Ladakh to be developed at a cost of approx. ₹200 crores. It will boost the air infrastructure in Ladakh and augment IAF's capability along the Northern border.

New online gaming, casino rules: GST to be paid on the entire value of chips you buy at the start

- The Ministry of Finance issued a notification detailing amendments to the Goods and Services Tax (GST) rules about online gaming and casinos. According to these amendments, individuals visiting a casino are now required to pay GST on the full value of the chips they initially purchase.
- The government introduced two new clauses – 31B and 31C – specifically outlining the valuation of the supply. Under these changes, claims made by players are to be included in the total amount paid or payable.
- Earlier in August, the parliament approved the amendments to the Central and Integrated GST laws to levy a 28% tax on the full face value of bets in online gaming, casinos, and horse race clubs.

JP Morgan to Add Indian Government Bonds to Emerging Market Benchmark

- In a significant development, JP Morgan Chase & Co. is set to include Indian government bonds in its renowned benchmark emerging-market index. This long-anticipated move is expected to attract substantial foreign investments into India's debt market.
- The inclusion is scheduled to take effect from June 28, 2024. India will have a maximum weight of 10% on this index.
- India's addition to this prominent global index will provide global investors with greater access to the

world's fastest-growing major economy, which has consistently offered some of the highest returns in the region.

Geographical Indication (GI) tags granted by the Geographical Indication Registry

- Under the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999, the GI tag is a legal recognition that safeguards the rights of products originating from a particular region.
- The Geographical Indication Registry works under the Department of Industry Promotion and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- The GI tag is initially valid for ten years, with the possibility of renewal to extend its protection and recognition. The following have been allotted the latest GI tags:
 - I. 'Koraput Kalajeera Rice,' an aromatic rice variety with nutritional value from Odisha has been granted a GI tag. It is also known as the 'Prince of Rice'. The rice is grown in Koraput district's Tolla, Patraput, Pujariput, Baliguda and Mohuli areas.
 - II. Salem Starch and Sago Manufacturers Service Industrial Cooperative Society Ltd. (SAGOSERVE) from Tamil Nadu has received GI tag for Salem sago. Sago is derived from raw tapioca. It is in the form of small hard globules or pearls and is pearl white in colour. It is produced in Salem district in Tamil Nadu which is the main center for sago production in the country. It is manufactured from the wet starch powder crushed from tapioca roots. The wet starch powder is used for producing sago and the dry powder has been used as a raw material for industrial purposes.
 - III. Bhaderwah Rajma and Ramban Sulai Honey from Jammu and Kashmir have earned GI tag.

India's Largest Home-Built Nuclear Plant Starts Operations

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that the 700 MW nuclear power plant, developed entirely within India, located in Kakrapar, Gujarat, has commenced its operations at maximum capacity.
- While the reactor at the Kakrapar Atomic Power Project (KAPP) started commercial operations on June 30, it was operating only at 90% of its capacity and it started operating at its full capacity on August 31, 2023.
- The Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) is building two 700 MW Pressurised Heavy

Water Reactors (PHWRs) at Kakrapar, which is also home to two 220 MW power plants. The NPCIL currently holds the operations of 23 commercial nuclear power reactors.

- Nuclear power plant projects with a capacity of 700 MW are currently in progress at two locations: Rawatbhata in Rajasthan (RAPS 7 and 8) and Gorakhpur in Haryana (GHAVP 1 and 2).
- The government has sanctioned the building of 10 indigenously developed PHWRs in fleet mode at four locations -- Gorakhpur in Haryana, Chutka in Madhya Pradesh, Mahi Banswara in Rajasthan and Kaiga in Karnataka.

India launches 'Hello UPI' for conversational payments

- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has launched two conversational payments – 'Hello UPI' and 'Bharat BillPay Connect' initiatives that are aimed at increasing convenience and accessibility for users.
- 'Hello UPI' allows users to make payments by engaging in conversations with their smartphones — whether it's splitting a restaurant bill, sending money to a friend, or settling utility bills.
- 'Bharat BillPay Connect' is an initiative aimed at effortless bill payments through conversations. It enables users to pay their bills through natural conversations with popular voice assistants like Alexa or via feature phones, smartphones, or merchant soundboxes. It aims to cater to users across various tech proficiency levels, ensuring that digital bill payments are accessible to all.
- The introduction of conversational UPI payments will augment user experience by enabling them to make voice-enabled UPI payments via UPI Apps, telecom calls, and IoT devices in Hindi and English, and will soon be available in several other regional languages.

Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers gets Navratna Status

- The Department of Public Enterprise granted Navratna status to Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers (RCF). Earlier, it was a Miniratna.
- Navratna companies are Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) that enjoy substantial financial independence, granting them the authority to make investment decisions for projects up to a specific threshold without requiring government approval.
- RCF is headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra. S. C. Mudgerikar is the chairman and MD of RCF.

Air India – Vistara merger cleared for take-off by Competition Commission of India (CCI)

- CCI approved Tata Group's plan to merge its full-service carriers Air India and Vistara.
- The approval clears the decks for the merger, following which the combined entity will retain the Air India brand, while the Vistara brand will be retired. CCI's approval is a must for mergers and acquisitions.
- Air India is fully owned by Tata Sons, while Vistara is a joint venture of Tata Sons and Singapore Airlines with an equity split of 51% and 49%, respectively. As per the merger proposal, Singapore Airlines will hold 25.1% of the merged airline.
- The Air India-Vistara merger is part of the ongoing consolidation of airlines under the Tata umbrella. The Tata group is already in the process of merging its low-cost carriers Air India Express and AIX Connect (formerly Air Asia India). Once both mergers are complete, the Air India group will have a full-service carrier Air India and a low-cost airline Air India Express. The Air India group is working on a fleet modernisation and expansion plan with firm orders for 470 aircraft from Boeing and Airbus.

Key Points

Chairperson of CCI	– Ravneet Kaur
CCI Headquarters	– New Delhi
Air India CEO and MD	– Campbell Wilson
Vistara CEO	– Vinod Kannan

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das rated 'A+' in Global Finance Central Banker Report 2023

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das has been rated 'A+' in the Global Finance Central Banker Report Cards 2023. The Bank Governors who earned an 'A+' grade in the Global Finance Central Banker Report Cards 2023 are Shaktikanta Das from India, Thomas J. Jordan (Switzerland), Nguyen Thi Hong (Vietnam).
- The Central Banker Report Cards, published annually by Global Finance since 1994, grade the central bank governors of 101 key countries, territories and districts, including the European Union, the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank, the Bank of Central African States and the Central Bank of West African States.

Bajaj Auto's subsidiary gets RBI registration for NBFC business

- Bajaj Auto's subsidiary, Bajaj Auto Consumer Finance, has received the Certificate of Registration from RBI to start the business of the Non-Banking Finance Company (NBFC) under section 45-IA of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.
- In 2021, Bajaj Auto announced the setting up of a 100% captive finance subsidiary 'Bajaj Auto Consumer Finance'.

Assets Under Management of NPS And APY Cross ₹10 Lakh Crore

- Assets Under Management (AUM) of the National Pension System (NPS) and the Atal Pension Yojana (APY) have crossed the milestone of ₹10 lakh crore. In total, the number of subscribers has reached 66.2 million (6.62 crore). The total funds from the National Pension System (NPS) Private, Atal Pension Yojana (APY), and National Pension System (NPS) Lite stand at ₹47,663 crore, ₹30,051 crore and 5,157 crore respectively.
- The National Pension System was introduced for all central government employees, except those in the armed forces who joined on or after January 1, 2004. There are many states and union territories that have adopted the NPS. As of May 1, 2009, NPS has been made accessible to all Indian citizens voluntarily.
- Starting on June 1, 2015, the Atal Pension Yojana was launched, which has significantly boosted the reach and effectiveness of social security schemes. Currently, it is open only to non-taxpayers. Currently, when the NPS participant reaches the age of 60 years, they are only able to withdraw 60% of the lump sum, as the remaining 40% is automatically allotted to the purchase of an annuity.

Key Points

Chairman of Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)	– Deepak Mohanty
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Grene Robotics, Hyderabad Firm Unveils India's First AI-Powered Anti-Drone System

- Grene Robotics, a Hyderabad-based robotics firm has unveiled a state-of-the-art autonomous anti-drone system Indrajaaal. It is powered by Artificial Intelligence and is said to be the world's only wide-area Counter-

Unmanned Aircraft System (C-UAS). It can provide a comprehensive and integrated security mechanism against moving threats that cannot be tackled with static defence systems. Indrajaal is designed to defend against all classes and levels of autonomous drones over an area of 4,000 square kilometres.

- The system can protect not just vital installations like nuclear installations and oil rigs, but also a wide area encompassing even an entire city, from multiple drones of any kind. This is the first time such a system has been developed in India.
- Grene Robotics is a deep-tech company that specialises in providing AI-powered security solutions for defence, enterprise, and government sectors.

Bulk sale of sim cards banned; agents need police verification

- In a move to curb fraud using mobile phone sim cards, the bulk sales of sim cards will be barred and mandated registration of franchisee, agents and distributors or point of sales by telecom companies besides police verification for sim dealers will be necessary.
- Connections or sims for businesses, corporates or events would be permitted. However, know-your-customer, or KYC norms, will be applicable to each of the individual sim owners.
- Entities will be able to get any number of mobile connections subject to the complete KYC of all of its end-users. Sim cards will be activated only after successful KYC of end users and physical verification of the premise and address of the entity. In addition to thumb impression and iris-based authentication in the Aadhaar E-KYC process, facial-based biometric authentication is also permitted. Individuals can still take up to nine sims on the basis of one identification.

MoU signed between Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya Vadodara and Airbus

- An MoU was signed between Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV), Vadodara and Airbus in New Delhi to enable the co-development and co-delivery of sector-relevant skilling, courses and programmes for regular students and working professionals, joint research and industry experience for faculty, internships, placement for students and scholarship programmes.

Key Points

Airbus Headquarters	– Netherlands
CEO	– Guillaume Faury

Axis Bank launched 'NEO For Business' Banking Platform for MSMEs

- Axis Bank has launched a transaction banking platform for the Indian Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) called NEO for Business.
- The NEO for Business platform offers features like digital self on-boarding, bulk payments, GST compliance invoicing, payment gateway integration, end-to-end transaction tracking, auto reconciliation, cash flow reports, and recurring collections, among others.

Key Points

MD & CEO	– Amitabh Chaudhry
Chairperson	– Rakesh Makhija
Headquarters	– Mumbai

IIM Indore partners with National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) to revolutionise Skill Development

- The Indian Institute of Management, Indore has entered into a partnership with NSDC for skill development and promoting entrepreneurship in India.
- The collaboration also strongly emphasises strengthening the rural economy through training programmes covering market linkages, marketing, export promotion, leadership and entrepreneurial orientation, especially for tribal women.

Key Points

NSDC Headquarters	– New Delhi
CEO	– Ved Mani Tiwari

Amazon's AWS ties up with ISRO to advance its Artificial Intelligence (AI) capabilities with cloud technologies

- Amazon Web Services (AWS) has signed a strategic Memorandum of Understanding with ISRO and the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe) to support space-tech innovations through cloud computing.
- This collaboration will give space start-ups, research institutes and students access to cutting-edge cloud

technologies that accelerate the development of new solutions in the space sector.

- Furthermore, ISRO, IN-SPACe and AWS will work collaboratively to nurture and grow the startup community in the space-tech sector. AWS will provide eligible space startups tools, resources, and expert technical support at no cost through the AWS Activate program to build innovative solutions and commercialise them faster. Startups will also benefit from access to AWS and its global experience of building aerospace and satellite solutions through the AWS Space Accelerator program.

Key Points

Director, Promotion Directorate at IN-SPACe	– Vinod Kumar
ISRO's HQ	– Bengaluru, Karnataka
ISRP's chairman	– Sreedhara Somanath

Project Abhinandan: Air India rolls out initiative to provide a personalised on-ground experience to passengers

- Air India has introduced 'Project Abhinandan,' a new initiative aimed at providing passengers with a personalised and hassle-free experience, particularly in managing baggage issues and dealing with missed flights.
- Under this initiative, Air India has stationed specially trained Service Assurance Officers (SAOs) at 16 major airports across the country to offer on-ground assistance and support to travelers.
- These officers are strategically positioned to assist Air India passengers at various critical points during their journey, including the check-in area, lounges, near boarding gates, during transit, or at the arrival hall.
- These officers are equipped with specialised training to handle a range of passenger issues effectively, such as missed flights, delayed baggage delivery, and misconnections at airports.

Key Points

Air India's HQ	– Delhi
Air India's CEO & MD	– Campbell Wilson
Air India's Chairman	– N. Chandrasekaran

GSITI inks pact with ISRO, to train 300 personnel in disaster management

- The Geological Survey of India Training Institute (GSITI), Hyderabad has signed a MoU with ISRO, Bengaluru under the National Natural Resources Management System programme for a period of five years.
- The scope of this project is to conduct a series of trainings for capacity building in the areas of mineral resources and disaster management under the National Natural Resources Management System programme.
- The main objective of the project is capacity building through the generation of skilled human resources in the Application of Digital Image Processing and GIS in Mineral Exploration, Advanced Remote Sensing Techniques in Mineral Exploration and Applications of Geo-informatics for Disaster Management.

RBI releases list of 15 NBFCs in upper layer under scale-based regulations

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced the names of 15 Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) placed under the upper layer as per Scale-Based Regulation (SBR) for 2023-24.
 - These include LIC Housing Finance, Bajaj Finance, Shriram Finance, Tata Sons, and Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company, placing them in the Upper Layer (NBFC-UL) under Scale Based Regulations (SBR) for non-bank lenders.
- These NBFCs belong to various categories — deposit-taking Housing Finance Companies (HFC), non-deposit-taking HFC, deposit-taking NBFC-ICC (Investment and Credit Company), Non-deposit-taking NBFC-ICC, and core investment companies — will be subject to enhanced regulatory requirements, at least for a period of five years from their classification in the layer, even in case they do not meet the parametric criteria in the subsequent year(s).

PEOPLE IN NEWS/APPOINTMENTS

Name	Designation
MS Dhoni	Brand Ambassador of Swaraj Tractors
Tharman Shanmugaratnam	President of Singapore
R Madhavan	President of FTII, Pune
Rajesh Nambiar	Chairperson of NASSCOM
Shyam Sunder Gupta	Principal Chief Operations Manager of Central Railway
Sato Kilman	Prime Minister of Vanuatu
Praveena Anjana	Miss International India 2023
Anushka Sharma	Brand Ambassador of women's fashion brand W
Hrithik Roshan	Brand Ambassador of brand Mobil
Erica Robin	Miss Universe Pakistan 2023
Srinivasan K. Swamy	Chairman of the Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC)
Rahul Navin	Director of Enforcement Directorate
Katrina Kaif	Uniqlo India's Brand Ambassador
Pramila Malik	First Woman Speaker of Odisha Assembly
Banmali Agarwal	Chairman of Tata Advanced Systems
K.N. Shanth Kumar	Chairman of Press Trust of India (PTI) Board
Dr Dinesh Dasa	Office and Secrecy as Member, UPSC
Marico's Saugata Gupta	ASCI Chairman
Jaya Verma Sinha	Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Railway Board
Rajnish Kumar	Chairman of Mastercard India
Rahul Navin	In-charge director of the Enforcement Directorate (ED)
Vivek Bhasin	Director of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC)
Banmali Agarwal	Chairman of Tata Advanced Systems
Sanjeev Mantri	MD And CEO Of ICICI Lombard
Nihar Malaviya	CEO of Penguin Random House
Dhananjay Joshi	Chairman of Digital Infrastructure Providers Association (DIPA)
Sindhu Gangadharan	NASSCOM Vice-Chairperson
Dr. Vasudha Gupta	Principal DG of Akashvani
Manish Desai	Principal Director General of Press Information Bureau (PIB)

DAYS AND THEMES

	Date	Day	Theme
1	September 1-7	National Nutrition Week	Healthy Diet Gaining Affordable for All
2	September 5	International Day of Charity	
3	September 5	Teacher's Day (India)	

	Date	Day	Theme
4	September 8	International Literacy Day	Promoting literacy for a world in transition: Building the foundation for sustainable and peaceful societies
5	September 8	World Physical Therapy Day	
6	September 9	World First Aid Day (Second Saturday of every September)	
7	September 10	World Suicide Prevention Day	
8	September 11	National Forest Martyrs Day	
9	September 14	Vishwa Hindi Diwas	Hindi: Traditional Knowledge to Artificial Intelligence
10	September 15	Engineer's Day	Engineering for a Sustainable Future
11	September 15	International Day of Democracy	Empowering the next generation.
12	September 15	World Lymphoma Awareness Day	We can't wait to focus on our feelings.
13	September 16	World Ozone Day	Montreal Protocol: fixing the ozone layer and reducing climate change
14	September 16	International Red Panda Day	
15	September 17	World Patient Safety Day	Engaging patients for patient safety
16	September 18	World Bamboo Day	
17	September 18-24	International Week of the Deaf	A world where deaf people everywhere can sign anywhere!
18	September 19	International Talk Like a Pirate Day	
19	September 21	World Alzheimer's Day	Never too early, never too late.
18	September 21	International Day of Peace (UN)	Actions for Peace: Our Ambition for the #GlobalGoals
19	September 22	World Rhino Day	
20	September 23	International Day of Sign Languages	A world where deaf people can sign anywhere
21	September 24	World Day of the Deaf	A World Where Deaf People Everywhere Can Sign Anywhere!"
22	September 25	Antyodaya Diwas	
23	September 26	World Contraception Day	The Power of Options
24	September 26	World Environmental Health Day	Global Environmental Public Health: Standing up to protect everyone's Health each and every day
25	September 27	World Tourism Day	Tourism and Green Investment
26	September 28	World Rabies Day	All for 1, One Health for All
27	September 28	World Maritime Day	MARPOL at 50 – Our commitment goes on
28	September 28	International Day For Universal Access To Information (IDUAI)	Importance of the online space for access to information
29	September 29	World Heart Day	Use Heart, Know Heart
30	September 30	International Translation Day	Translation unveils the many faces of humanity

OBITUARIES (NATIONAL)

Name	Occupation/ Field
Piloo Dara Reporter	Indian international cricket umpire
N Valarmathi	ISRO scientist and voice behind Chandrayaan-3 countdown,
Ajit Ninan	Political Cartoonist
RS Shivaji	Tamil Actor and Comedian
Arun Kumar Sinha	SPG Chief
Gita Mehta	Writer
K G George	Filmmaker
Ashwin Dani	Co-Founder of Asian Paints
Saroja Vaidyanathan	Bharatnatyam dancer
N.Neela	Renowned flautist
MS Swaminathan	Father of India's green revolution
Akhil Mishra	Actor
Malini Rajurkar	Hindustani classical vocalist

OBITUARIES (INTERNATIONAL)

Name	Occupation/ Field
Heath Streak	Sportsman (Former captain of Zimbabwe cricket team)
Dennis Austin	Principal software developer for PowerPoint co-created PowerPoint
David McCallum	British Actor
Professor Sir Ian Wilmut	British Scientist
Giorgio Napolitano	Former Italian President
Michael Gambon	Actor

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

Book	Name of the writer
Fire on the Ganges: Life Among the Dead in Banaras	Radhika Iyengar
Ajay to Yogi Adityanath	Shantanu Gupta
Chacha Chaudhary aur Chunavi Dangaal	Election Commission of India (ECI)
Nation Calling- Holistic Approach for UPSC Civil Services Examination	Sonal Goel

RANKS AND INDICES

Indore Tops Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan 2023 Clean Air Survey

- Indore in Madhya Pradesh clinched the top position in Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan 2023 (clean air survey) in the category of the million-plus population cities. Agra in Uttar Pradesh secured the second rank, followed by Thane in Maharashtra on the third spot.
- The Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan is carried out by the ministry based on self-assessments submitted by 130 identified cities under the National Clean Air Programme.
- The assessment was done based on the submission of the self-assessment report, along with supporting documents, by urban local bodies.
- The awards were categorised by city population size based on the 2011 census.
- In the three to ten lakh population category, Amravati, Maharashtra, secured the top rank followed by Moradabad (Uttar Pradesh) and Guntur (Andhra Pradesh).
- Himachal Pradesh towns – Parwanoo and Kala Amb took the lead among cities with under three lakh population, with Angul, Odisha, in third place.
- The cities were assessed on eight major points, including control of biomass and municipal solid waste burning, road dust, dust from construction and demolition waste, vehicular emissions, industrial emissions, public awareness, and improvement in PM10 concentration.

Global Innovation Index (GII) 2023

- India retains 40th rank out of 132 economies in the

Global Innovation Index 2023 rankings published by the World Intellectual Property Organisation

- India has been on a rising trajectory, over the past several years in the Global Innovation Index (GII), from a rank of 81 in 2015 to 40 in 2023.
- The GII is a reliable tool for governments across the world to assess the innovation-led social and economic changes in their respective countries. Over the years, the GII has established itself as a policy tool for various governments and helped them to reflect upon the existing status quo.

World Talent Ranking 2023- India slips four spots to 56th position in 2023

- According to the International Institute for Management Development, India has slipped four spots to 56th position, compared to its 52nd position in 2022, in the 2023 World Talent Ranking.
- IMD praised India's talent pool for its agility, tech-savviness, and readiness for the future. It acknowledged India's infrastructure improvement and underscored the need for further enhancement in talent competitiveness.
- The report ranks 64 economies of the world.

India ranks First among 154 Nations in Grassroot adoption of Crypto

- According to Chainalysis, India has been ranked first in grassroots crypto adoption, even amid a tough regulatory environment.
- Nigeria ranked second in the index, followed by Vietnam, United States and Ukraine.

SPORTS NEWS

Asian Games: Amul to be the official sponsor of Indian Contingent

- The country's leading milk cooperative Amul will be the official sponsor of the Indian Contingent for the 19th Asian Games 2022 to be held in Hangzhou, China from September 23 to October 8, 2023
- The XIX Asian Games 2022 will feature 482 events across 40 sports. The Asian Games, also known as Asiad, is a continental multi-sport event held every

fourth year among athletes from all over Asia.

In a five-year deal, Viacom 18 bags BCCI TV and digital media rights for ₹5,963 crore

- Viacom 18 Media Private Limited has bagged the BCCI's TV and digital media rights for the next five years for a cumulative figure of Rs.5,963 crore. Viacom18 beat competition from Sony Sports Network and Disney Star in an e-auction conducted by the BCCI.

- Viacom18, a joint venture between the Reliance Industry-owned Network 18 Group and Paramount Global, has taken the BCCI bilateral media rights from Disney Star, who had won the television and digital rights for the 2018-23 cycle for INR 6138 crore. Disney Star also won the rights to the 2012-18 cycle of broadcasting Indian cricket in the country for Rs. 3851 crore.

Indian Men's Hockey team won the inaugural Men's Hockey 5s Asia Cup by defeating Pakistan

- In Hockey, India beat Pakistan in a penalty shootout in the final to win the inaugural Men's Hockey 5s Asia Cup 2023 in Salalah, Oman.
- The win also served as Asia's qualifying tournament for the FIH Men's Hockey5s World Cup Oman 2024. Subsequently, India qualified for the FIH Men's Hockey5s World Cup Oman 2024.

Key Points

Captain of Indian Men's – Harmanpreet Singh
Hockey team

Union Minister of Youth – Anurag Singh Thakur
Affairs and Sports Minister

Max Verstappen wins Italian GP

- Runaway Formula One leader Max Verstappen has won the Italian Grand Prix by leading Red Bull teammate Sergio Perez. He sets a new record for the most consecutive wins in Formula 1 history with ten.

McGahey to become the first transgender to play international cricket

- In a historic moment, Danielle McGahey from Canada is set to become the first transgender cricketer to participate in an international match. Her groundbreaking inclusion will occur next month during a regional qualifying tournament for the year 2024.
- McGahey is named in Canada's squad for the Women's T20 Americas Qualifier, the pathway tournament to the T20 World Cup 2024.

Street 20: Street Child Cricket World Cup to be held in Chennai from Sept 22

- Street 20, a world cup cricket, exclusively for Street Children will be held in Chennai for the first time. Street children from 15 countries including the United

Kingdom, Brazil, Hungary, Mexico, South Africa, Sri Lanka and Rwanda will participate in the tournament which precedes ICC World Cup Cricket in India.

- Team India, the defenders of the Cup, will be the star of the game. The first-ever street child Cricket World Cup was held in London in 2019 where Indian Children won the tournament.

Asia Cup 2023: Virat Kohli becomes fastest to reach 13,000 ODI runs, smashes ton

- Virat Kohli became the fastest to reach 13,000 ODI runs during the Asia Cup Super 4 clash against arch-rival Pakistan at the R. Premadasa Stadium in Colombo, Sri Lanka.
- He achieved the record in just 277 innings. Additionally, with this century, Kohli has now scored four consecutive 100s at this stadium, the joint-most highest centuries at a single venue alongside South African great Hashim Amla. The other three tons were against Sri Lanka—two of which came in 2017 and one in 2012.

Germany beat Serbia to win the first-ever FIBA Basketball World Cup

- Germany has won their first-ever FIBA Basketball World Cup title by beating undermanned Serbia 83-77 in Manila. It went 8-0 in the tournament, becoming the fifth consecutive World Cup champion to go unbeaten.
- It became the first team to win a FIBA World Cup crown in their final debut since Spain in 2006.
- The 2023 FIBA Basketball World Cup was the 19th tournament of the FIBA Basketball World Cup for men's national basketball teams. It was hosted by multiple nations for the first time in its history—the Philippines, Japan, and Indonesia.

SAFF U-16 Championship: India crowned champions after 2-0 win over Bangladesh in the final

- India's U-16 team became winners of the SAFF U-16 Championship by beating Bangladesh 2-0.
- The final took place in Changlimithang Stadium in Thimphu, Bhutan.

Key Points

India Under-17 Head Coach – Ishfaq Ahmed
Head Coach

Best Goalkeeper of – Suraj Singh
SAFF U16 Championship

Archery World Cup Final 2023: India's Prathamesh Jawkar wins Silver medal

- Indian archer Prathamesh Jawkar lost to Denmark's Mathias Fullerton at the Archery World Cup Final 2023. Jawkar settled for a silver at the finals.
- The 2023 Archery World Cup Final was held in Hermosillo, Mexico.

Asia Cup 2023: Rohit Sharma becomes the second fastest after Virat Kohli to complete 10,000 runs in ODIs

- India captain Rohit Sharma achieved a major landmark in his career during the Asia Cup 2023 Super Fours match against Sri Lanka at the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo, Sri Lanka.
- He became only the sixth Indian batter to complete 10,000 runs in one-day internationals.
- He is the 15th batter overall to get to 10,000 runs in ODI cricket. Rohit Sharma is the second fastest Indian batter after Virat Kohli to complete the 10,000-run milestone in ODI cricket. Kohli achieved it in 2018 in Visakhapatnam in an ODI against West Indies in 205 innings. Rohit reached the milestone in his 241st innings.

Bengaluru Joins Delhi and Gurugram as Host City

- Subroto Cup, the oldest national school football tournament in India, will be held for the first time outside the National Capital Region (NCR), in Bengaluru alongside Delhi and Gurugram with an aim to spread the reach of the iconic tournament throughout the country.
- The 62nd edition of the tourney starts September 19 and will run till October 23. While the U-14 Sub-Junior Boys competition will be hosted in Bengaluru, the U-17 Junior Boys and Girls tournaments will be held in Delhi/NCR.
- A total of 109 teams will participate across the three categories from 27 States and Union Territories (UTs) of the country. This season, teams from Nepal and Bangladesh will be participating as foreign nations in the tournament. A total of over 180 football matches are scheduled to be played.

Former World No.1 Tennis Star Simona Halep receives four-year ban in Doping case

- The International Tennis Integrity Agency has barred two-time Grand Slam champion Simona Halep from professional tennis for four years for drug offences.

- According to the ITIA, she was charged with two doping offences: failing a drug test during the 2022 U.S. Open and abnormalities in her Athlete Biological Passport. A panel determined that Halep "had committed intentional anti-doping rule violations."
- Halep has been suspended indefinitely since October 2022. The four-year prohibition will be in effect until October 6, 2026.
- In 2017, Halep topped the WTA rankings. She won Wimbledon in 2019, defeating Serena Williams in the final, a year after winning the French Open.
- Halep hopes to challenge the judgement to the Court of Arbitration for Sport, blaming it on a tainted supplement.

India wins Asia Cup 2023

- India beat Sri Lanka in the final by ten wickets with 263 balls in hand. With this, India has won their eighth Asia Cup title and their first major trophy since the 2018 Asia Cup.

ICC World Cup 2023: Adidas unveils new Team India jersey with tricolour strips

- Adidas, the official kit sponsor of the Indian team for the 2023 World Cup has unveiled the jersey for the Men in Blue.
- Adidas launched the jersey through a video anthem created for the Indian team for the World Cup. The anthem, aptly titled '3 ka dream', serves as a testament to India's relentless pursuit of their third men's ODI World Cup.
- Adidas came on board as the Indian cricket team's kit sponsor in May earlier this year. The three white stripes over the shoulder have been replaced by India's vibrant tri-colour. The jersey boasts two stars positioned above the BCCI logo, symbolising India's victorious campaigns in the ODI World Cup – first in 1983 and then in 2011. These stars serve as a source of immense pride, serving as a vivid reminder of Team India's remarkable cricketing achievements on the global stage.

BCCI announces SBI Life as official partner for domestic, international season 2023-26

- SBI Life has joined hands with the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) as one of the official partners for the BCCI Domestic and International Season 2023-2026.

- SBI Life has signed a 3-year deal with the BCCI and their partnership will begin with the upcoming three-match ODI series against Australia, starting September 22, 2023.
- Hockey captain Harmanpreet Singh and Olympic medallist boxer Lovlina Borgohain will be the flag-bearers of the Indian contingent during the opening ceremony of the Asian Games in Hangzhou.
- A total of 655 Indian athletes are competing in the Asian Games this time, which is the largest contingent ever.

Harmanpreet Singh, Lovlina to be India's flag-bearers at Asian Games opening ceremony

EVENTS

Kathmandu-Kalinga Literary Festival concludes in Lalitpur, Nepal

- The three-day-long Kathmandu-Kalinga Literary Festival successfully came to an end in Lalitpur, Nepal. The festival showcased literature, music, dance, poetry and other art forms.
- Professor Avadhesh Pradhan, actress and writer Divya Dutta, Prof Madhav Prasad Pokharel and actress Manisha Koirala were awarded 'Yashaswi Sahitya Samman'.
- In addition to the 'Yashaswi Sahitya Samman,' the festival introduced the 'Yashaswi Book Prize' to recognise outstanding literary works.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the 20th ASEAN-India Summit and the 18th East Asia Summit

- The Prime Minister attended the 20th ASEAN-India Summit and the 18th East Asia Summit (EAS) in Jakarta on September 7, 2023.
- At the ASEAN-India Summit, the Prime Minister held extensive discussions with ASEAN partners on further strengthening of ASEAN-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and charting its future course. The Prime Minister reaffirmed ASEAN centrality in the Indo-Pacific and highlighted the synergies between India's Indo-Pacific Ocean's Initiative (IPOI) and ASEAN's Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP). He also emphasised the need to complete the review of the ASEAN-India FTA (AITIGA) in a time-bound manner.
- The Prime Minister presented a 12-point proposal for strengthening India – ASEAN cooperation covering connectivity, digital transformation, trade and

economic engagement, addressing contemporary challenges, people-to-people contacts and deepening strategic engagement.

- At the 18th East Asia Summit, PM Modi reiterated the importance of the EAS mechanism and reaffirmed India's support for further strengthening it.

India's First Lighthouse Festival opens in Goa; spotlight on 75 historical sites to be developed as major Tourist Destinations

- The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Ayush, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated the maiden edition of 'Bharatiya Prakash Sthamb Utsav' or Indian Lighthouse Festival at the historic Fort Aguada in Panjim, Goa on September 23, 2023.
- The festival is aimed at rejuvenating the rich maritime history of India's 75 iconic lighthouses and unravelling the illustrious stories of the world.
- The Ministry is aiming to leverage the Indian Lighthouse Festival to shore up the base for the Public Private Partnership route to develop the historic into a world-class tourist destination.
- The Directorate General of Lighthouses and Lightships has already identified 75 such lighthouses, and this festival is a testament to the commitment of the government to celebrate and preserve our maritime heritage.

Key Points

Director General of Lighthouses and Lightships – N. Muruganandam

AWARDS AND HONOURS

Ruixiang Zhang Awarded 2023 SASTRA Ramanujan Prize in Mathematics

- Dr. Ruixiang Zhang, an Assistant Professor at the University of California, Berkeley, USA will receive the prestigious 2023 SASTRA Ramanujan Prize for his exceptional contributions to the field of mathematics.
- Dr Zhang is known for his significant contributions across various mathematical domains. His work spans analytic number theory, combinatorics, Euclidean harmonic analysis, and geometry. One of his notable achievements includes a collaboration with Shaoming Guo, resulting in a multivariable generalisation of the main conjecture in Vinogradov's Mean Value Theorem.
- The candidates must be under the age of 32. This age limit is inspired by the remarkable accomplishments of Srinivasa Ramanujan, who made groundbreaking contributions to mathematics within the relatively short span of 32 years of his life.
- The selection process for the SASTRA Ramanujan Prize was overseen by the SASTRA Ramanujan Prize Committee, which consisted of eminent mathematicians from around the world.
- The award comes with a cash prize of USD 10,000 and will be formally presented to him during an international conference in Number Theory. This conference is scheduled to take place from December 20 to December 22 at SASTRA University, which is located in Kumbakonam (Tamil Nadu) the hometown of the renowned mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan.

'2018' is India's official entry in Oscars 2024

- The Film Federation of India has announced that the Malayalam movie "2018: Everyone is a Hero," based on the Kerala floods, will represent India as its official entry at the Academy Awards or Oscars in 2024.
- The film, directed by Jude Anthany Joseph, delves into the harrowing tales of survival during the devastating floods that struck the state. Its selection was attributed to its poignant portrayal of climate change issues and the societal misconceptions about development.

CSIR honours 12 scientists with the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize for 2022

- The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has announced the names of the winners of the

Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar (SSB) awards for 2022, after nearly a year's delay. The list of 12 scientists across seven categories, chosen for the coveted award in the field of science and technology, was released by CSIR on Monday, September 11.

- Named after Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar, the first director of CSIR, the award honours scientists from seven disciplines of physics, biology, engineering, mathematics, medicine, chemistry and earth sciences.

Brig Sanjay Kumar Mishra awarded Dr AM Gokhale award for ophthalmology in Pune

- Renowned ophthalmologist Brig Sanjay Kumar Mishra of the Indian Army's Research and Referral Hospital was conferred with the prestigious 'Dr. AM Gokhale Award' in Pune. Brig Mishra is one of the highest decorated officers of Indian Armed Forces Medical Services.
- Sanjay Kumar Mishra has performed surgeries on two serving Presidents of India.
- Dr. AM Gokhale was a renowned teacher of Ophthalmology and his students progressed to become the doyens of Ophthalmology in the country.

RITES Ltd wins 'Safety Innovation Award 2023'

- RITES Limited has been honoured with the 'Safety Innovation Award 2023', under the 'Construction' category, for implementing 'Innovative Safety Management Systems' in its operations.
- The award was presented to 'RITES' officials during the inaugural function of the 20th Safety Convention organised by The Institution of Engineers (India), the largest multi-disciplinary professional body of engineers, at Hotel Le Meridien, New Delhi.
- RITES Limited, previously recognised as Rail India Technical and Economic Service Limited, stands as a prominent Miniratna (Category – I) Schedule 'A' Public Sector Enterprise, specialising in transportation consulting and engineering services in India. The company boasts an extensive array of services and a widespread presence, accumulating a wealth of experience over 49 years. RITES has successfully executed projects across 55 countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America, South America, and the Middle East.
- Mr. Rahul Mithal currently serves as the Chairman & MD of RITES.

Odisha scientist Dr Swati Nayak wins the prestigious Norman Borlaug Field Award 2023

- Dr Swati Nayak, an Indian scientist at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), has been named the 2023 recipient of the prestigious Norman E Borlaug Award for Field Research and Application, with the World Food Prize Foundation describing her as an 'outstanding young scientist.'
- Ms. Nayak is the South Asia Lead for Seed System and Product Management at the IRRI in New Delhi.
- Endowed by the Rockefeller Foundation, the award recognises Ms. Nayak for her innovative approach to engaging smallholder farmers in demand-driven rice seed systems, from testing and deployment to equitable access and adoption of climate-resilient and nutritious rice varieties.
- The award is given to exceptional scientists under 40 and someone who works in the field of food and nutrition security, and hunger eradication in memory of the Nobel awardee and Green Revolution's chief architect, Dr. Norman Borlaug.